

1. A bracket for absorbing energy comprising:
an anchor plate;
an extension arm continuous with and extending from the anchor plate;
and

5 a support foot linked to the extension arm by a flex region and positioned adjacent to the anchor plate, wherein the bracket is an incompletely tubular structure, and wherein the support foot is configured to translate upon impact to contact the anchor plate, the bracket being further configured to deform to absorb impact energy.

10 2. The bracket of claim 1, wherein the support foot is positioned adjacent to the anchor plate and substantially parallel to the direction of an anticipated impact.

3. The bracket of claim 1, wherein the support foot comprises a translating arm extending from the flex region, and a foot region extending from a terminal end of the translating arm such that it is positioned adjacent to the anchor plate.

15 4. The bracket of claim 3, wherein the support foot is positioned adjacent to the anchor plate and substantially parallel to the direction of an anticipated impact.

5. The bracket of claim 3, wherein the anchor plate of the bracket further includes a locking ridge for engaging the support foot.

6. The bracket of claim 5, wherein the foot region of the support foot is positioned substantially perpendicular to the anchor plate.

7. The bracket of claim 3, wherein the foot region of the support foot is generally rounded in shape.

5 8. The bracket of claim 1, wherein the support foot comprises a translating arm extending from the flex region and a foot region extending from a terminal end of the translating arm such that it is positioned adjacent to the anchor plate, the support foot further comprising an intermediate foot projecting from the translating arm.

9. The bracket of claim 8, wherein the intermediate foot comprises a fold of
10 the translating arm.

10. The bracket of claim 9, wherein the intermediate foot abuts the anchor plate.

11. The bracket of claim 9, wherein the intermediate foot abuts an attachment projecting from the anchor plate.

12. The bracket of claim 1, wherein the anchor plate, extension arm, flex
15 region, and support foot of the bracket have a uniform thickness.

13. The bracket of claim 1, wherein the bracket is constructed of aluminum.

14. The bracket of claim 1, wherein the bracket is constructed of steel.

15. The bracket of claim 1, wherein the bracket is constructed of plastic.

16. The bracket of claim 1, wherein the anchor plate comprises at least one mounting bore for mounting the bracket to a structure such as a vehicular pillar.

17. The bracket of claim 1, wherein the support foot comprises at least one mounting bore for mounting the bracket to a structure such as a vehicular trim panel.

18. An energy absorbing pillar structure for an automotive vehicle, comprising:

an anchor plate;

an extension arm continuous with and extending from the anchor plate;

and

a support foot linked to the extension arm by a flex region and comprising a translating arm extending from the translating arm and a foot region extending from a terminal end of the translating arm, the support foot being configured to translate upon impact to contact the anchor plate, the energy absorbing pillar structure having a uniform thickness and being further configured to deform to absorb impact energy.

19. The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 18, wherein the support foot is positioned adjacent to the anchor plate and substantially parallel to the direction of an anticipated impact.

20. The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 18, wherein the anchor plate further includes a locking ridge for engaging the support foot.

21. The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 20, wherein the foot region of the support foot is positioned substantially perpendicular to the anchor plate.

5 22. The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 18, wherein the foot region of the support foot is generally rounded in shape.

23. The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 18, wherein the support foot further comprises an intermediate foot.

10 24. The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 23, wherein the intermediate foot abuts the anchor plate.

25. The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 23, wherein the intermediate foot abuts an attachment projecting from the anchor plate.

26. The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 23, wherein the intermediate foot comprises a fold of the translating arm.

15 27. The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 26, wherein the intermediate foot abuts the anchor plate.

28. The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 26, wherein the intermediate foot abuts an attachment projecting from the anchor plate.

29. The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 18, wherein the anchor plate comprises at least one mounting bore for mounting the energy absorbing pillar structure to a vehicle.

30. The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 29, wherein the support foot
5 comprises at least one mounting bore for mounting the energy absorbing pillar structure to a vehicular trim panel.

31. The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 18, wherein the bracket is constructed of aluminum.

32. The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 18, wherein the bracket is
10 constructed of steel.

33. The energy absorbing pillar structure of claim 18, wherein the bracket is constructed of plastic.

34. An energy absorbing pillar structure comprising:
an anchor plate for securing the pillar structure to a vehicle;
an extension arm projecting outwardly from the anchor plate;
a flex region continuous with the extension arm;
a translating arm extending from the flex region; and
a support foot at the terminal end of the translating arm, the support foot
being configured to translate and contact the anchor plate when the pillar structure
is contacted, the energy absorbing pillar structure having uniform width and being
configured to deform to absorb impact energy.